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THE OBSERVATOR.

More Work for Robin Hog. *The* Grand Seigniors *Edict againſt the* Papiſts, *the Form of* Robin Hogs *Bill againſt him for the ſame. Of the Play call'd,* The Fickle Shepherdeſs, *of ſome Blaſphemous and Prophane Expreſſions contained in it. The Neceſſity of Proſecuting Books of that Nature. Of the Danger of* Stage Plays *to the Kingdom of* England.

From Wednesday July the 21ſt, to Saturday July the 24th, 1703.

Country-m. MAſter *Obſervator*, you told us when we laſt parted, that you had ſome more Work for *Robin Hog*, Pray let us hear what it is.

Obſ. A Friend of mine has ſent me a New Edict of the *Grand Seignior*'s againſt his Chriſtian Subjects who have chang'd their way of Worſhip for the *Roman*; and againſt all *Miſſionaries* of that Perſwaſion who ſhall be found within the *Ottoman Empire.* There are ſeveral Chriſtians, as the *Greeks*, *Armenians*, *Syrians* and others, who are Tributary Subjects to the *Grand Seignior*; and the *Popiſh Emiſſaries*, who, like Locuſts overſpread the Face of the whole Earth, were got among and Seduced them to the *Roman* Religion. The Miniſtry of *Turky*, which is none of the meaneſt in Politicks, adviſed the *Grand Seignior* to Iſſue his Imperial Edict *to Obviate their Malice and Sedition, as highly neceſſary to hinder the Effects of theſe their Dangerous Attempts, and to overthrow theſe their Wicked Purpoſes:* And therefore he Commands all his Judges and Officers in their Reſpective Stations, *To Comport themſelves herein with that Care and Application as becometh them in an Affair of this Importance.* He commands them to make Diligent Search after all ſuch *Popiſh Seducers* and *Deceivers* within his whole Empire; and commands ſuch of his Tributary Subjects, as have Renounced the *Old* for the *New* way of Worſhip, to quit their New-fangled *Frank* Religion, and to oblige them to it by the Severeſt *Menaces. But*, ſays the Edict, *Take Eſpecial Heed that none of ye be Brib'd on this Occaſion, for ſhould we hear that any of you*, Directly or Indirectly, *by your ſelves or Inferiour Officers, are brought off to do any thing in Contravention to this our* Edict, *you may depend on the moſt Signal Puniſhments by which we deſign to make you* Examples.

Country-m. I find, Sir, that Bribery is a Vice which has ſpread it ſelf all over the World; but the *Turks*, it ſeems, take ſpecial Care of thoſe that are guilty of that Crime: But what has *Robin Hog* to do with the *Grand Seignior* and his Government.?

Obſ. I'll tell you what, the *Grand Seignior* has abuſed *Robins* Friends, the *Papiſts*, and therefore he ought to Prefer a Bill againſt him the next Seſſions, That He (the *Grand Seignior* meaning) not having the fear of *Robin Hog* before his Eyes, did about the Decreaſe of the Moon *Saphar*, in the Year of the *Hegyra* 1114. which in *Engliſh* Stile is on the 20th of *July* 1702. Publiſh and Cauſe to be Publiſhed at *Adrianople* and other parts in the *Turkiſh* Empire, a new Edict whereby he *Wickedly*, *Falſly*, *Maliciouſly*, *Trayterouſly* and *Seditiouſly* endeavours to extirpate the *Papiſts* in *Greece*, *Armenia*, *Syria*, and in divers places in *Aſia*; contrary to the Power and Authority of the great *Hog* of the Kingdom of *England*, who is in Peace and Alliance with all *Papiſts* throughout the whole World.

Country-m. But Mr. *Obſervator*, we and the *Turks* are at Peace one with another, and I don't think *Robin Hog* durſt Prefer a Bill againſt any one of our Allies.

Obſ. We and the *Papiſts* are at Enmity one with the other, and the *Pope* and his Eldeſt Son the *French* Tyrant, do deny Her Majeſties Title to the Crown of *England*; now if *Robin Hog* had the Impudence the laſt Seſſions to Prefer a Bill againſt me, who am one of the beſt Friends Her Majeſty has in *England*, as having vindicated Her Majeſties Right to the Crown againſt all Oppoſers whatſoever, I ſay, if *Robin* could have the Impudence to bring a Bill againſt one of Her Majeſties Friends at Home, he may do the like againſt one of her Friends ſo far off, and that for the ſame Reaſon too, for Printing and Publiſhing againſt Her Majeſties Enemies the *Papiſts*, who do all of 'em deny Her Majeſties Right to the Crown, and who for *Robins* good Service will advance him upon his little Maſters return from St. *Germains*, if his Brother at *Newgate* does not get him into his Nooſe before that time. The Learned and Judicious *Selden* in his *Table Talk*, tells us, That ſome Merchants in *London*, for want of Repriſal, got the King of *Spain* out-law'd in *Weſtminſter-Hall*; do you think the mighty *Hog* can't do as much by the *Grand Seignior* in his own *Diſtrict* of the *Old Baily*?

Country-m. No, Maſter *Obſervator*, he can't: The *Hog* Stinks like Carrion throughout the City of *London*; you'll find him Yoak'd and Ring'd againſt another Seſſions. An Honeſt, Rich Merchant of the City of *London* told me, That 'twas a *Scandal* to the *City*, & the Court of Juſtice held therein, that ſuch an Impudent Fellow, an Abettor and Solicitor for *Papiſts* ſhould be ſuffer'd to Awe and Threaten Grand Juries, and that if ever the *Hog* appear'd in Court; when He was on the Grand Jury, (as ſeveral times he has been) he would throw him over the Rails to be Devour'd by the Dogs in the Yard. Nay, Sir, there's Mr. *Counſellor* the *Lawyer* ſays, that he ought to be Indicted for Preferring that Bill againſt you, by Reaſon he uſed Her Majeſties Name in Court, in favour of *Papiſts* and *Popery*, when we all know Her Majeſty is a True *Proteſtant*, and Loves all *Proteſtants* and *Engliſhmen* like your ſelf: And that 'tis a thing worthy the notice of the State, and that he is ſure Her Majeſties Miniſters will never ſuffer Her Majeſties Authority to be uſed againſt Her Self and the *Proteſtant Intereſt*, and if you would wait upon him at his Chambers, he will tell you more of this Buſineſs.

Obſ. I thank God, Honeſt *Country-man*, I underſtand

derſtand the Laws of *England* in Relation to the Rights of the Crown and of the People; and I can, when I pleaſe, have Recourſe to ſome of the beſt Men in *England* for Advice, who very well know me, and my Affection to Her Majeſties Perſon and Government; and I muſt tell you I have ſome more Work for the *Hog* and his *Abettors*: You may know Her Majeſty did never Publiſh a Proclamation for the Encouragement of *Papiſts* and *Popery*, but like a true *Religious Queen* ſhe has Publiſh'd ſeveral Proclamations againſt *Vice*, *Prophaneſs*, *Immorality*, and *Debauchery*, and has required Her Juſtices of the Peace to put the Laws againſt thoſe Vices in Execution; but neither the *Hog*, or any of his Directors, have done any thing in this Point. There is lately Printed a Play called the *Fickle Shepherdeſs*, all Acted by Women. I ſhall only give you a Sample of the Prophane Expreſſions contained therein, from pag. 17. *Art thou my Siſter* Helen? *What were we Hatch'd In an Egg-ſhel?* —— *Bid* Charon *inſtantly make his Boat Ready*, I'd Row to Hell.

O Ceres, *can thy* All-ſeing Eye *behold this Object, And yet reſtrain thy Pity?*

Things of this Nature would be worthy the Conſideration of Grand Juries; and no one would Blame *Robin Stevens* or any of his Directors, if they, in the *Queens Name*, ſhould *Proſecute Blaſphemers*, and *Prophane Perſons*, for the Proſecution of which Her Majeſty has ſo often given Publick Direction; but they'll ſooner be Row'd to Hell along with their Siſter *Aminta*, than Puniſh a *Prophane Perſon*. Our Courts of *Juſtice* were Erected for the *Tryal* and *Condemnation* of ſuch as Write after this manner, and not for ſuch as Write in the Defence of Her Majeſties Title againſt *Papiſts* and *Jacobites*: But, *ſic nos mutamur*, if ſome People can have their Wills, *John Dunton*, for his *Shorteſt Way with Whores*, ſhall ſhare the ſame Fate with *Daniel Foe* for his *Shorteſt Way with Diſſenters*.

Can there be any thing more Prophane than to appropriate that to a *Heathen Goddeſs*, which is the peculiar Attribute of the *Almighty God*, the *Creator* of the whole *Earth*, and of the whole expanded *Firmament* of *Heaven*? Who with one Glance of his Eye can behold all the Works of his Hands, the *Celeſtial* and *Terreſtrial* Globes, and the living Creatures and luminous Bodies therein placed and fixt by his Almighty Power; who caſts his Eye over the Spacious and Liquid Orb, and ſees his own wond'rous Works in the Subteraqueous Caverns of the mighty Sea; Whoſe diſcerning Eye penetrates into the dark Womb of Futurity, and more plainly ſees things that ſhall be, than we can now ſee things that are. To his *Allſeeing Eye* are the Actions of Men, of States and Kingdoms continually expoſed. His Eye pierces into the hidden Secrets of our Hearts, and into the dark Receſſes of Thought, which are Imperceptible to human Eyes, and ſince the Almighty ſees every thing, we can by no means hide our ſelves, ſo as to eſcape his Righteous Judgment. As *David* ſays of this Mighty Omnipreſent Being. *Whither ſhall I go from thy Spirit? Or whither ſhall I flee from thy Preſence? If I aſcend up into Heaven, Thou art there: If I make my Bed in Hell, behold! Thou art there. If I take the Wings of the Morning, and dwell in the uttermoſt parts of the Sea, even there ſhall thy Hand lead me, and thy Right Hand ſhall uphold me: If I ſay, ſurely the Darkneſs ſhall cover me: Even the Night ſhall be Light about me: Yea the Darkneſs hideth not from thee, but the Night ſhineth as the Day, the Darkneſs and the Light are both alike to thee.*

Now, Sir, is it fit that the great Creator of the Univerſe, ſhould be diveſted of his Glorious Attributes and Titles, and have them given to a Heathen Goddeſs by Prophane Perſons on the Stage; the Devils Theatre in *England*? I ſay is this fit and proper to be done in a Chriſtian Country, Governed by a *Proteſtant* Queen? Do we believe our Maker to be indeed no more Omnipreſent than that Heathen Goddeſs, that we thus triffle with his Tranſcendent and Peculiar Attributes? Does he ſee theſe Indignities daily offered to the Majeſty of Heaven, and do you think he will not Avenge himſelf on ſuch a Sinful Nation as *England*? Can we expect other than *Fruitleſs* and *Diſhonourable* Cruizers of our Navy, and *Inglorious Campaigns* Abroad, when we thus affront the Lord of Hoſts at Home? Do we wonder that the Seaſons of the Year do alter upon us, when we are ſo unſtedfaſt in our Duty? And can we expect plenty of Food and Riches, when we are ſo Poor in good Works? Let us look to the *Achan* of Sin in places which ſhould be the moſt *Reformed*, and we need not wonder at the *Judgments* that threaten us and our Poſterity.

And I would deſire the Citizens of *London* to conſider whether it be good for themſelves and for their Children, to have the *Play-Houſe* Bills Poſted up in the *City* to invite them to Buy *Vice* at the *Devils-Shop*. Methinks the many Inſtances of Families undone by theſe means, ſhould put the *Citizens* on *Methods* to prevent it for the future, I am ſure their own *Power* may reſtrain it in their own *Liberty*; and would they, as the laſt *Grand Jury* preſented, draw up an *Adreſs* to the Queen, it might be a *Means* of preventing it every where elſe, for I am ſure *Her Majeſty* knows not how much Her own *Name* and *Authority*, as well as the *Majeſty* of *Heaven* is abuſed; and I have often wondred how great *Miniſters* and Perſons in Eminent Offices and Employments in Her Majeſties Service, could ſuffer ſuch Infamous Perſons as Players, to call themſelves their Brethren and Siſters, as they always do in their Printed Bills, where they Stile themſelves Her Majeſties Servants. —— But prithee what News?

Country-m. Very little upon my Honour: Here's *Ben. Braggs* Expreſs; I think *Robin Hog* frights all the Fighting Stories out of his News-Paper. They had an Expreſs at the *Hague* from *Inhout*. We are *In* and *Out* I don't know how in *Flanders*, for the *French* it ſeems ſhow'd them their *Back-ſides* again, they ſet their Hedge on Fire, and ran away into their Lines by the Light on't. But I'll tell you what, juſt as the *French* run away, Maſter *Swangenburgh*, the *Dutch* General, that knock'd ſo many *French* Fellows Brains out 'tother Day at —— Somewhere *I'm* ſure, 'twas he was almoſt come up with them, and all his hacking and cutting Fellows along with him, *I'll* lay a Gallon of *March* Beer on that Mans Head.

Obſ. I'll lay you ten Gallons he won't Fight when you would have him. Do but conſider that the *French* had large Reinforcements from the *Moſelle*, that they have drained their Gariſons to Augment their Army, and, for ought I know, are Superior in number to the Allies. Conſider further, that the *French* will only Fight in their Intrenchments and Lines, which makes a greater Diſproportion in War than inequality of Forces. *I'll* venture at any time 30000 of the Confederates againſt 40000 of the *French* in an open Field of Battel, but as things ſtood in *Flanders*, at the coming away of this Mail, the worſt the Enemies of the Government can ſay of the D. of *Marlborough* is, that he has Omitted an Opportunity of loſing his Army.

London, Printed by *J. How*, at the *Seven Stars*, in *Talbot Court*, in *Grace-Church-Street*; and Sold by *B. Bragg*, at the *Blew-Ball* in *Avemary-Lane*, 1703.